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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 EURE-00

SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /111 W
---------- 043007
P 271545Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0140
INFO USCINCEUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY
COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 3343

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT CY PROP MOPS
SUBJ: ALLEGED OVERFLIGHTS OF GREEK SHIPS BOUND FOR CYPRUS

REF: A. NICOSIA 2814; B. NICOSIA 2880; C. ATHENS 3343;
D. USCINCEUR MSG 111337Z SEP; E. CINCUSNAVEUR MSG 022046Z SEP;
F. NICOSIA 3159

1. SENSATIONALIST LOCAL GREEK PRESS HAS EXHUMED STORY THAT USG WARPLANES "HARASS/SPY ON" CYPRUS-BOUND GREEK VESSELS. ALLEGED "OINOUSSAI" INCIDENT (REF C) SPECIFICALLY CITED. ARTICLES HAVE STRONG ANTI-USG TWIST.

2. "TA NEA" (RABIDLY ANTI-USG, PRO-ARAB, PRO-MAKARIOS, SOCIALIST) SEPTEMBER 26 QUOTES ATHENS PAPERS, "APOGEVMATINI" AND "ATHINAIKI", TO EFFECT THAT USG FOUR-ENGINE WARPLANES OVERFLEW GREEK PASSENGER SHIPS BOUND FOR CYPRUS, AT LOW HEIGHT AND IN AREA SOME 50 MILES SOUTHWEST OF PAPHOS (OR KTIMA: VD475490). ARTICLE ADDS THAT (1) PILOTS TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS OF VESSELS, (2) PLANES COME FROM AKROTIRI SBA OR PERHAPS MAINLAND TURK AIRFIELD, (3) FLIGHTS MOTIVATED BY USG "FEAR" THAT GREECE WILL TRY TO REINFORCE
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CYPRUS WITH MEN OR MATERIEL. IN SAME VEIN, PAPER RUNS

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SHARP ANTI-PENTAGON EDIT SEPTEMBER 27.

3. "MAKHI" (LURID, SENSATIONALIST RAG OF EX-EOKA GUNMAN NICOS SAMPSON) SEPT 27 CLAIMS GOCYPRUS MADE "REPRESENTATIONS" TO EMBASSY NICOSIA "MONTH AGO" RE INFORMATION THAT USG PLANES FROM AKROTIRI "SPYING ON" CYPRUS-BOUND GREEK SHIPS. PAPER SAYS EMBASSY DENIED REPORT, BUT STATES THAT FLIGHTS IN FACT OCCURRED, THOUGH GOCYPRUS COULD DO NOTHING BECAUSE THEY OUTSIDE ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS.

4. COMMENT: TO DATE, GOCYPRUS HAS NOT EXPLOITED "OINOUSSAI" OR OTHER ALLEGATIONS. CLERIDES SPIKED A MALICIOUS "HARAVGHI" (COMMUNIST PART PAPER) EFFORT TO CAPITALIZE ON ISSUE AT SEPT 17 PRESS CONFERENCE (REF F). ASIDE FROM ORIGINAL INQUIRY (REF A), GOCYPRUS HAS MADE NO REPEAT NO REPRESENTATIONS WHATSOEVER.

5. VENOMOUS STORIES OF THIS KIND FIND READY BELIEF, WIDE CIRCULATION IN LOCAL ATMOSPHERE STILL PREGNANT WITH ANTI-USG FEELING. FOR THIS REASON, WE MUST CONTINUE SCRUPULOUSLY TO ENSURE THAT ALL SURVEILLANCE/RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS INVOLVING CYPRUS-BOUND VESSELS FOLLOW ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL RULES AND USAGE.
CRAWFORD

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